

my staff, Leroy Colvin of Burlington, Washington. Leroy passed away suddenly on Sunday, May 17, 1998. His death was a great shock to those of us fortunate enough to have known and worked with him.

When I first met Leroy, he was a caseworker in the Bellingham, Washington office of my predecessor, Al Swift. I had always respected Leroy, so when I was elected in 1994, I asked if he would like to continue working for me in that office, and he did.

Leroy was one of the people that make the programs created in Congress work for the average American. If a person was having trouble with Social Security, veterans' affairs, or any other program, they could not have a better advocate than Leroy Colvin. He was the person on my staff that one could go to if they had a really tough case that needed a positive solution.

Leroy was born February 2, 1935 to a farming family in Skagit County, Washington State. During his days as a farmer, Leroy grew 120 acres of strawberries, 20 acres of raspberries, and 100 acres of cucumbers annually.

□ 2030

As a farmer, Leroy was unique for his time in that he provided day care for the children of the migrant farm workers that would come way up North each year to harvest his crops. He was concerned with their welfare and always tried to do the right thing by them. He also operated a restaurant and lounge in Burlington for about 10 years.

My staff all have their own favorite stories and observations of Leroy, but one truth has come through consistently. Leroy loved a challenge. Like most Americans our age, Leroy was not used to the great many things that computers could do to provide information to help him do his case work. When he was shown the great wealth of information that was available on the Internet, Leroy was fascinated. He would often provide information on obscure topics to other members of my staff while they were on the telephone with a constituent talking about that subject. He would get on that thing and go while they were talking and bring them information. He loved a really hard case or a request for the most obscure fact or figure. He would work at it every day until he came up with the answer.

When a member of my staff wanted to reunite her husband with his son after a 30-year absence, it was Leroy that was able to search America via the Internet and finally locate him. The end of that story, they plan to meet later this year.

Leroy was also fascinated by genealogy. He was sort of a self-appointed family historian for the Colvin family of Skagit County. He had friends and relatives in the Ozarks, and he loved to travel to Branson, Missouri. Leroy had friends all across the country. He had lived in many places in America as a younger man and still had contact with

the friends he made from this time of his life. He was a stranger to no one he met.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, my wife and my staff, I wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to the Colvin family on the passing of Leroy. No building or program will ever bear his name, but few have done as much on a daily basis with as much heartfelt caring to make American government work for the average person than Leroy Colvin.

I, along with my wife and staff, as well as the people in need of help from their government, will miss him deeply.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REMEMBERING EDDIE RABBITT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago I was riding on an airplane, and I sat down next to a fellow who was a little reluctant to start talking to me initially. But we had about a 3-hour flight, and, as the flight progressed, I got a chance to get to know this fellow. His name was Eddie Rabbitt, and he was a country and western singer who over the last 20 years had 26 number one country hits. And Eddie and I became very good friends, and we talked on the phone quite frequently. We did not get together very much, but we talked on the phone on a regular basis.

And about a year ago I found out that Eddie was suffering from lung cancer. He was 55 years old at the time, and he had part of his lung removed, and he went through chemotherapy and all the other things that people go through when they suffer from cancer of almost any type anymore. And Eddie was a very courageous fellow. He fought very, very hard to whip cancer, and they thought that they did have it whipped but, unfortunately, a couple of weeks ago Eddie Rabbitt passed away.

He was one of the finest men I had the opportunity to know. He was a good family man. He feared God. He cared about his country, and he believed that entertainment, country and western entertainment, should be very clean and free from obscenities. And he talked about that quite frequently.

He was one of the nicest guys that I had the opportunity to know over the past several years, and he will be missed by me and by a lot of other people across the country who really loved and admired his work.

At the height of his career, he decided to cut back on his performances

because he had a son Timothy who had liver disease, and his son died in 1985, 1 month shy of his second birthday. It was very difficult for him, and he decided to cut back on his work so he could spend more time with his family. Rabbitt and his wife Janine had two other children, daughter Demelza, 16, and son Tommy, 11. They lived in the Nashville suburb of Franklin, Tennessee.

He was a wonderful man. He was a man who was loved by people all across this country. He was a great entertainer, a great artist, and he will be missed by people all over this country and all over the world.

REGARDING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 404 regarding the relations between the people of the United States and the people of the Philippines. In light of the Philippines 100th anniversary of its independence from Spain, this measure appropriately acknowledges the Philippines' efforts to improve its democracy and human rights, rule of law and expansion of the free market. Such accomplishments are reflective of a nation striving to fulfill its potential as a future leader in international diplomacy.

As a nation on the rise, the Philippines has made significant strides to uphold and promote democratic ideals. From open elections to establishing diplomatic relationships with free world nations, the Philippines has accepted its role as an emerging power in the international forum. This role has been further established by its efforts to promote human rights both domestically and abroad.

In the annals of U.S. military history, the Philippine people have made incredible contributions to the preservation of world democracy. Fighting side by side with American troops in World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam, Filipino troops demonstrated both valor and fighting prowess in all these engagements. In the constant face of adversity, these men and women endured and prevailed. The accomplishments of Philippine Americans have not only been noticed in military endeavors, but have also been noteworthy for their contributions to the United States.

As U.S. citizens, Filipino Americans have made great contributions to the growth and prosperity of our Nation. In the 37th Congressional District of California, the Filipino American community has contributed immeasurable leadership and vision. As a result of these contributions, the Filipino American community deserves the respect

and gratitude of this country's government.

Unfortunately, some members of the Filipino community have not been accorded such respect. Amerasian children, children of mixed heritage borne by Philippine mothers and U.S. servicemen, have been denied the right to immigrate to the U.S.

In the spirit of today's House resolution, I would ask my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me in sponsoring my bill, H.R. 2540, the Amerasian Reunification Act. This legislation would help reunite families and children born in the Philippines. Your support of this legislation will send a resounding message to the citizens of the Philippines that Americans are willing to stand behind their democratic beliefs in assisting those less fortunate in need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

ON NIGERIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, none of us should take comfort or have joy when someone loses their life. So I do not stand today on the floor of the House to celebrate the death of the despotic leader of Nigeria, Sani Abacha, for a human life has been lost.

Immediately upon his death, however, a military major general was appointed. I do think it is important that we look upon this opportunity for all of us who believe in human rights and human dignity and the full promise of a country like Nigeria with 115 million citizens, the largest nation on the continent of Africa. I do believe this is a time that we stand up and ask for democratic free elections, the respect of human rights and human dignity, and the assessing of the needs of the people of Nigeria and their needs being the highest priority over the greed of despotic leaders.

As I watch the news unfold, tragic that someone has lost their life, but it gives us an opportunity to speak up and stand up and be counted. Otherwise we all can turn our backs and our heads and we can say, well, there has been a nonviolent transition of government. Of course, it has. Military leaders selected another military leader.

The question is, will there be free elections in Nigeria? Will there be the opportunity for the people of Nigeria to have jobs, for the oil-rich Nigeria to translate some of those dollars into the education of their children, the health care, the opportunities for employment, or will business be as usual?

I for one think it is important that Nigerians around the world, people of goodwill who want their country to be restored to its natural promise of leadership on the continent of Africa and in the world, the place where it has been in the past and the place where it has been in recent years, when it helped America in the Persian Gulf War, even Africa today looks to Nigeria to be a leader.

How tragic it was that the President of the United States in his visit to the continent could not include on his list the largest African nation to be part of that historic journey because it had not accepted the principles, the basic tenets of human dignity and human respect.

So Nigerians across the world, and particularly those in this great Nation, and to my good friends in Houston, Texas, it is time now for your voices to be raised and demand the transition that will transition the Nigerian Government into democracy, free elections into the fall. The major general who has now been despotically appointed by dictators themselves must commit himself to free elections. Our corporate friends who enjoy the largess of a country with respect to the businesses that are done there, their voices, too, must be raised.

I do know that overall sanctions at the drop of a hat do not necessarily work, but I think it is now high time for Nigeria to unshackle itself from despotic leadership, punitive measures towards its constituency base, the mass killings of writers, poets, activists and adversaries of the government, and stand up and be counted for the democracy of which its promise can fulfill. Nigeria can be a leader on the African continent and in the world. We should be ashamed to allow the despotic leadership to continue.

Those of us who care about the continent in Nigeria, someone who has studied, as myself, in Nigeria, traveled in Nigeria, appreciate and love the people of Nigeria, have strong constituents who are in fact citizens or past citizens of Nigeria, I would simply say that now is the time for all voices to be heard. No one's head should be turned. No one should say, I am afraid that my name can be counted because the despot in Nigeria may haul me over from the United States or they may harm my family. What kind of country is that?

So it is so extremely important that we call upon this newly appointed new leader, self-appointed, if you will, not democratically elected, to bring about democracy to his people, freedom to his people, free elections to his people, human dignity to his people. And we in the United States of America must be in the front of the line demanding that kind of justice for the Nigerian people.

My friends who are Nigerians in this country, your voices must be the loudest, and you must join us in ensuring that there is, yes, a good atmosphere for doing business, but good opportunity for living a better quality of life

in a democratic society. Nigeria deserves nothing less. This country should call upon it to do what is right.

□ 2045

HOUSE PASSES LEGISLATION TO STIFFEN SANCTIONS REGARDING MISSILE PROLIFERATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Fox) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in the House to congratulate my colleagues for joining with myself and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) in passing historic legislation which will stiffen sanctions against Russian organizations that have provided missile hardware and technology to Iran. The legislation imposes a minimum of 2 years of sanctions against Russian organizations and companies identified as having provided missile materials or technology or have tried to since January 22, 1998 when the Russian government issued a decree banning such activity.

The urgency of this legislation is apparent. Thanks to critical assistance from Russian firms, Iran is making steady progress in developing medium- and long-range ballistic missiles which is not in the best interests of the United States or in world peace. Unless something happens soon, Iran may be able to produce its own medium-range missiles within less than a year. If the assistance from Russia continues, Iran soon will be able to produce long-range ballistic missiles as well.

For more than a year, the Clinton administration has been in dialogue with Russia about stopping this assistance. Thanks in large part to the pressure brought to bear by the very legislation we have considered today, some progress has been achieved, at least on paper.

On January 22, the Russian government issued a decree to block the transfer of missile technology to Iran but in the nearly 6 months since this decree was issued it has become apparent that the Russian government is not fully committed to implementing it. Despite progress in some areas, the evidence suggests that at least some elements of the Russian government continue to believe that the transfer of missile technology to Iran serves Russian interests. Congress cannot change the misguided foreign policy calculations of some Russian officials but we can give Russian firms that are in position to sell missile technology to Iran compelling reasons not to do so. The sanctions contained in our legislation will require such firms in Russia and elsewhere to choose between short-term profits when dealing with Iran and potentially far more lucrative long-term economic relations with the United States.

As this legislation was adopted here in the House today, by a 392-22 vote, we